



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SAN ANTONIO MAN SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS IMPRISONMENT IN
PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS CASE**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that 26-year-old Marcus Edward Rodriguez was sentenced this morning to ten years in federal prison for being a convicted felon in possession of three firearms.

In addition to the prison term, United States District Judge Xavier Rodriguez ordered that the defendant be placed under supervised release for a period of three years after completing his prison term.

On September 16, 2004, Rodriguez pled guilty to two felon-in-possession charges. Rodriguez admitted that on September 14, 2002, he was in possession of a Norinco Model SKS semi-automatic rifle and a 9mm caliber pistol. Rodriguez also admitted that on November 8, 2002, he was in possession of a loaded .22 caliber derringer. Rodriguez' criminal history reflects previous Bexar County convictions for sexual assault of a child, aggravated robbery and assault with bodily injury.

This case was investigated by the Bexar County Sheriff's Office and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Special Assistant United States Attorney Gerald H. Matheny prosecuted this case on behalf of the government.

The prosecution of this case is another example of how the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas is carrying out the Department of Justice's gun crime initiative - Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN). Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide federal initiative designed to reduce gun violence in our communities. PSN promotes partnerships among federal, state, and local law enforcement to target criminals in possession of guns. Federal law insures that when an armed criminal is arrested, that individual will face swift criminal prosecution and be exiled from the community through the use of stiff mandatory prison sentences.

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